Farm News

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Artificial Breeding Takes Some Gamble Out of Dairying

Dairymen can take the gamble out of their breeding program by using artificial breeding, says Dr. V. L. Baldwin, dairy specialist at VPI.

It's possible, he claims, for a dairyman to waste 8 to 10 years if he depends on his own choices of bulls.

For instance, because of the complex nature of inheritance, the young bull you have been using or are planning to use could be a sad disappointment even though his sire and dam are outstanding. If he is a dud, it will take about four years after breeding time before his daughters will have completed records. If the daughters are disappointments, and they are bred in turn to another unknown bull it will be another four years before you know what their daughters will do. Even if these next daughters are good, it has taken eight years or more. If they are poor it will take another four years to correct your mistake in selecting your sires.

It's only good sense, Dr. Baldwin says, to depend on carefully selected proved sires such as those available from the artificial breeding organizations in Va. He recommends, even when using bulls from artificial breeding, that several bulls be used. Don't select one, or a few sires, until their daughters are milking and you can see how they look and do.

Dr. Baldwin suggests that interested dairymen contact their county agents for further details on artificial breeding programs.

The 1958 Virginia fire-cured tobacco crop is estimated at 8,510,000 pounds. The estimated average yield per acre is 1,400 pounds, which is the highest yield on record. In 1957, Virginia growers produced 8,500,000 pounds which sold for an average of $38.70 per hundred pounds. This crop sold for a total of $3,324,000.

In 1957, as in previous years, many growers did not get maximum returns for their crops because they did not do a good job of preparing their tobacco for market. Here are some reasons why you will get more money for your crop when you properly prepare it for market.

1. The tobacco will look better on the floor.

2. It will be easier for the tobacco inspector to apply the official standard grade.

3. It can be more easily evaluated by the buyers.

4. It will be worth more to the buyer because it will require less rehandling.

5. If it goes under the support price program, you will have a higher support price than if the tobacco was poorly sorted or poorly handled.

Be sure to have a comfortable and well lighted place in which to work. Good lighting conditions are very important. Use the type of fluorescent fixture recommended in Extension Circular 484 "Have Good Lights for Sorting Tobacco." Never use any other type of artificial light. Use a northern light if fluorescent lights are not available.

These suggestions should help you get more money for this crop.

1. After your tobacco is thoroughly cured, take down and bulk as much as you can. An important point to remember is that when tobacco is left hanging in the barn after it is cured, it will depreciate in both quality and color. The longer it is left in the barn, the greater will be the depreciation.

2. Be sure to take advantage of as much natural order as possible. Water should be used with extreme caution. The use of water to "order" tobacco causes bruising, discoloration, and excessive use of water will result in the loss of support price.

3. It will generally be necessary to make the following principal separations when sorting your tobacco.

a. Lugs. Tobacco in this group is composed chiefly of comparatively thin and lean leaves, showing a material amount of injury of the kind characteristic of leaves grown near the ground.

b. Heavy Leaf. All grades of the B group must be clean, sound, medium to heavy body, and over 16" long.

c. Thin Leaf. All grades of the C group must be clean, sound, of thin to medium body, and over 16" long.

d. Wrapper. All grades in the A group must be clean, sound, ripe, firm and strong, must have an open tissue, bright finish, small to medium size and blending fibers, and must be over 20" long.

e. Tips. All grades in the T group must be clean, sound and shall consist of leaf tobacco which is under 16" in length.

In making the above separations let's keep these key points in mind.

a. Keep your colors separate and never mix green and off-colored leaves with dark or brown leaf.

b. Keep leaves of different lengths separate. Tobacco 22 inches long is more valuable than tobacco under 22 inches in length.

Hixburg

Hixburg, Nov. 18.- The Hixburg Hunt Club members were out in full force on Wednesday evening at Jim Taylor's Store. The same officers were retained: Mr. Eugene Sears, president, and Henry Covington, secretary.

In this vicinity, rabbits, squirrels, turkeys and deer are reported to be plentiful, but partridges are scarce.

Mr. W. M. Erwin, Sr., of Mt. Ulla, N. C., passed away suddenly on Saturday afternoon. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Flossie His Erwin; seven children and twelve grandchildren. All of the children were at home for the funeral.

Lt. Col. W. M. Erwin, Jr., flew in from his present station, Weisbaden, Germany. Sgt. Tom Erwin came from Maine.

The services were conducted at Thyatira Presbyterian Church, at 3:00 P. M. on Tuesday, with interment in the church cemetery. Those who attended from here were John Wilson His, W. D. His, Jr., and Ed McPhillips.

Recently, Miss Maggie His has enjoyed many callers. These include Mr. Hugh Gills, of Buckingham, Mrs. Eugene Sears, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gilliam, of Lynchburg; Mrs. Alfred Harwood, Sr., of Appomattox; Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Black, Miss Mary Rives Black, Mrs. W. B. Ford and Mrs. H. M. Marshall, all of Pamplin.

A. J. Shuping, Jr., of Salisbury, N. C., spent Thursday night in her home.

The older Pioneers, of Walker's Presbyterian Church at Hixburg, will meet in the Phenix Presbyterian Church next Sunday at 2:00 P. M. to attend a Training Class for Pioneers. These youngsters have already begun to work on a Christmas tableau.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Mrs. Kate Coin Adams arrived in New York from Germany. Pfc. Wade Adams, her husband, had flown over on Friday, Nov. 7. Pfc. Adams will be discharged at Fort Lee on Nov. 26.

Mr. Herbert Gilliam and mother, Mrs. Olla Gilliam, of Roanoke, visited several homes in this neighborhood over the week-end.

VIRGINIA RANKS HIGH IN DHIA IN NATION

Virginia ranks eighth in the United States in the number of cows enrolled in Dairy Herd Improvement Associations.

A recent U. S. Department of Agriculture release showed that California, with 208,778 cows on test ranked first with a safe margin of nearly 80,000 cows. In second place came New York with 129,081 cows, followed by Pennsylvania with 105,448, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan ranked ahead of Virginia with her 44,809 cows on test.

Production - wise, California took first place with a record of 10,883 pounds of milk per cow. There were 23 other states ranking below California and above Virginia, where the average production was 9,456 pounds of milk per cow.

Butterfat production laurels went to California and Washington, which tied for first place with 428 pounds of butterfat per cow. Virginia ranked 26th in butterfat production per DHIA cow, with 377 pounds.

Although Virginia ranked lower in production than the northern, north central, and western states, she did lead the South in all categories.

INCOME AFFECTS USE OF SOME DAIRY PRODUCTS

Income has a major effect on the use of some dairy products, but not so much on others, say dairy marketing specialists at VPI.

The specialists cite a U. S. Department of Agriculture survey which shows that the use of fluid cream and butter increases most rapidly as income per family goes up. The families with incomes averaging about $9,000 a year use at least twice as much fluid cream and butter as those earning only $3,500 a year, the survey showed.

The use of cheese and ice cream is only moderately greater at the higher income levels.

The survey also showed that high incomes do not insure high use of fluid milk. For families earning $4,500 or more, the level of income has little effect upon the amount of fluid milk used. At the lower end of the income scale the amount of income has a significant effect. A recent study indicates that income has an important effect in the South up to at least the $9,000 income level, although this effect is less at high income levels. The study points out that an increase in income of 10% results in a 2 to 3% increase in fluid milk use.

Spout Spring 4-H Club

The Spout Spring 4-H Club met Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the school. The meeting was opened with the 4-H Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Some of the children gave demonstrations on wild animals and how to provide shelters and feeders. The leaders asked the members to build a rabbit trap and bring a sample to the next meeting in December.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Alex of Richmond are vi Mrs. R. W. Stanley.

Dr. and Mrs. C. J have been spending Alabama and Flori home.

Mr. and Mrs. Joh and Miss Nancy Fergu day in Brookneal wh Conway Angle.

Mrs. Martin L. W Doug spent last we with Mrs. Webb's pa Mrs. R. L. Hawkins

Mrs. Joel Gill Robertson and Mrs. Red Mrs. D. A. Coan of Mrs. W. W. Wood day.

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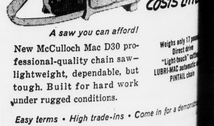

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PERSONALS

Ferguson left Mon- where she will visit Maria Pledge.

Wilson of Char- spending sometime Herbert Pulliam.

of Darlington mer guest of Mrs. day.

of Orange spent ith her aunt, Mrs.

G. R. Kruer, of ting her moth- Moses.

h, of Norfolk, is days with her sis- Caldwell.

fined is improving fined to her bed for

ldwell, of Sweet ia Florence Cald week-end.

her left Saturday to with her son, Hen- ington, Va.

y and sons spent the County with Mrs. coaching at Clinch

rrence and Mrs. spent the day Wed- ter sister, Mrs. W. T.

B. C. Gilliam, of and Mrs. W. T. d in the home of Mr. Terrence Sunday.

E. LeRoy Smith have visit to Mr. and Mrs. ersville, Md., and Mr. Smith at Arlington.

Leslie Goodrich mot- end Sunday to visit th, who is a patient College Hospital.

E. Crote Drinkard board of Greensboro, ding sometime with ather C. Drinkard.

r is reported to be Lynchburg General uries suffered in an dent Saturday night.

F. Davis and Miss ll left Wednesday where they will visit

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Morris and son, Scottie; Mrs. R. W. Morris, and Miss Hazel Moon were dinner guests Sunday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Robertson, of Lovingston. Miss Moon spoke that evening in the Lovingston Baptist Church. Mrs. R. W. Morris remained with the Robertsons for a visit.

Mrs. Rachel F. Lawson entertained the Tuesday Evening Bridge Club this week at a dinner party at the Parkway Restaurant. They later played bridge at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Lawson, Mrs. H. B. Pack received the high score prize, and Mrs. S. A. Lawson was presented a consolation gift. A floating prize went to Mrs. R. W. Stanley.

FOR BRIDE - ELECT

Mrs. James Williamson and Mrs. Frank Nash, Jr. were hostesses for a miscellaneous shower Saturday night at the Sherwill Community Center. The affair was in honor of Miss Dorothy Painter, whose marriage to James Ballough, of Lynchburg, will take place Saturday, Nov. 22, at 8:00 o'clock in New Concord Presbyterian Church, Concord, Va.

Fall flowers and foliages decorated the rooms and refreshments reflected the bridal note. The guest list was composed of close friends and relatives.

HONOR BRIDE-ELECT

Mrs. R. Murrell Ferguson was hostess on Friday evening, honoring Miss Beulah Ferrell, bride-elect, with a shower of gifts for the kitchen.

A huge four-tier mock wedding cake, decorated with yellow and white crepe paper, carrying out the bridal colors, was placed in the living room. The cake was topped with a bride-doll. Under each tier the bride-to-be found her gifts.

The guests were later invited into the dining room for refreshments. The table center piece featured a bride-doll with candelabras and flowers on either side. The decorated wedding cake was cut by the bride-elect and served to the guests along with punch, mints and nuts.

TEEN-AGE RECORD HOP

Come Cats! Come Kittens! To the Teen-age Record Hop, sponsored by the 4-H Honor Club. The Hop will be at the American Legion Hall on November 21, from 8:00 to 12:00. The admission will be 50c. If the Hop is successful, there may be more to follow. Come on Cats, and let's get hep and attend the dance that's real cool!

FOR MISS FERRELL

Miss Beulah Ferrell was feted on Tuesday evening when Mrs. Byron B. Cole entertained the bride-to-be with a shower at her home. Guests included members of the Country Lane Home Demonstration Club, of which Miss Ferrell is a member.

A color scheme of pink and white was carried out in every detail. A shower of miscellaneous gifts was presented on a table covered with bows of ribbon, carrying out the color scheme.

Refreshments of punch and cake were served from a beautifully decorated table. The hostess was assisted in serving by her daughter, Priscilla Cole, and Mrs. John Cole.

Those attending were Mesdames James A. Smith, C. S. Martin, John C. Cole, David Reid, R. L. Wingfield, W. E. Ferrell, W. T. Coleman, C. C. Carter, Fred Smith, L. B. Goodrich, Eugene Franklin, T. E. Chenatham, W. L. Motley, E. O. Blackwell and J. A. Robinson.

CHURCH CIRCLE GIVES SHOWER FOR BRIDE-ELECT

The approaching marriage of Miss Beulah Lutrell Ferrell to Mr. Raymond Francis Jamerson, to take place in December, is being anticipated with much interest here. Many parties have been planned for the coming event.

On last Tuesday evening in the home of Miss Marguerite Gilliam, with Mrs. Lester B. Harvey and Miss Gilliam as hostesses, the bride-elect was honored with a surprise miscellaneous shower by the members of her church circle, and other guests. She was recipient of lovely and useful gifts, among which was included linen, china and crystal.

An interesting floral guessing contest followed, after which guests were invited into the dining room, where the wedding motif was carried out in a lovely manner. A beautiful three-tiered wedding cake and other delicious and dainty refreshments were served.

New Hunting Method

Stillwater, Okla.- Richard Marquardt, of Oklahoma State University, hunts geese with a cannon.

A graduate student, Marquardt uses the cannon to fire nets over the birds so he can capture and tag them. He's working on a project to learn more of the birds' migratory habits.

MISS BROOKS TO WED MR. DAVID FERGUSON

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Brooks, of Clarkton announce the engagement of their daughter, Earleen Kate, to David Alexander Ferguson, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bernard Ferguson, of Appomattox.

Miss Brooks attended Phillips Business College and has been employed with the Government in Washington.

Mr. Ferguson is a graduate of Lynchburg College and is now employed with Craddock and Terry Shoe Corp.

A late November wedding is planned.

Several Factors Influence Performance of Steers

Age, rate of winter gain, and intensity of grazing have an influence on how efficiently pasture-fattened steers produce meat, say scientists at VPI Agricultural Experiment Station.

A recently-concluded four-year test at the Station was aimed at determining the influence of age, winter gain, and rate and method of grazing on annual gain, market desirability, and cost of production of pasture fattened steers.

"With the range of the data," the scientists made the following conclusions:

On the average, two-year-old steers gained 19 pounds more per head in the pasture season, had carcass grades 1-5 of a grade higher and 1% greater dressing percentage than yearling steers. However, in one year of short rainfall, gains were about the same for both ages.

Higher levels of wintering increased annual gain, carcass grade, and dressing percentage. The average increase for each 100 pounds of winter gain amounted to 30 pounds annual gain, 1-5 of a grade, and 1% dressing percentage.

Within age and year, winter gains increased carcass weight by an amount equal to the increase in liveweight. The data indicated that after growth needs were met, each extra pound of gain was deposited as extra carcass tissue.

Withholding steers from part of the pasture until July 1 showed no advantage over continuous grazing for the entire pasture season.

Summer gain increased as the amount of pasture per steer increased. In years with adequate rainfall, increasing the pasturage per steer from 1 1-2 to 4 acres resulted in increased gains of about 20 pounds per head. In an unfavorable year, there was a marked drop in summer gain when grazing was intensive.

Heavy stocking of pastures in the regular grazing season increased the length of the winter feeding period. In lots that provided 1 1-2 acres per steer there was little or no forage for grazing after October 15, while lots with 3 or more acres per steer usually had enough forage on them to carry stockers until early December.

The scientists say that the production of fat steers from pasture has been an important phase of the beef cattle industry in certain areas of Virginia for a long time, and that it seems certain to continue important. Virginia steers are usually marketed from August 15 to November 1. They compete with beef produced in other pasture areas, and go to market at a time when there is likely to be a short age of choice cattle. To meet competition effectively, the Virginia producer must either keep production costs low, or improve quality and fatness by profitable methods.

Appomattox is a growing town.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

Many people pile earth and leaves on the north side of their homes and use a slanting roof on the north side of the home. Do these practices reduce heating bills?

Yes, these practices do save money spent for heating. The slant of the roof deflects harsh, cold northern winds, which pass on over the house. If dirt and leaves are piled up to the overhanging roof, on the north side of the house, and the top of the earth pile is slanted, this provides a beginning to the deflecting of the northern winds.

A vertical wall on the southern side of the house will absorb sunlight and tend to catch the heat from the sun, so that full benefit from its rays are enjoyed.

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